

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

A method and system for use in viewing a mail item moving in a mailing machine. A video camera is used to acquire an image of the mail item, and a light source triggered by one of the vertical sync pulses provided by the video camera is used to provide repeated short flashes of light to illuminate the mail item while its image is acquired by the camera. Preferably, a sensor is used to provide an arrival signal when the mail item enters the field-of-view of the camera so that the light source is triggered only when it is also enabled by the arrival signal. A video display device, operatively connected to the video camera, is used to display the acquired image for viewing. Alternatively, the acquired image is stored in a storage device for viewing at a later time.